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(74) Agent: GRIFFITH HACK; Level 3, 509 St Kilda Road,  
Melbourne, Victoria 3004 (AU).

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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): OPTIS-  
CAN PTY LTD [AU/AU]; 15-17 Normbandy Road, Not-  
ting Hill, Victoria 3168 (AU).

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(72) Inventors; and

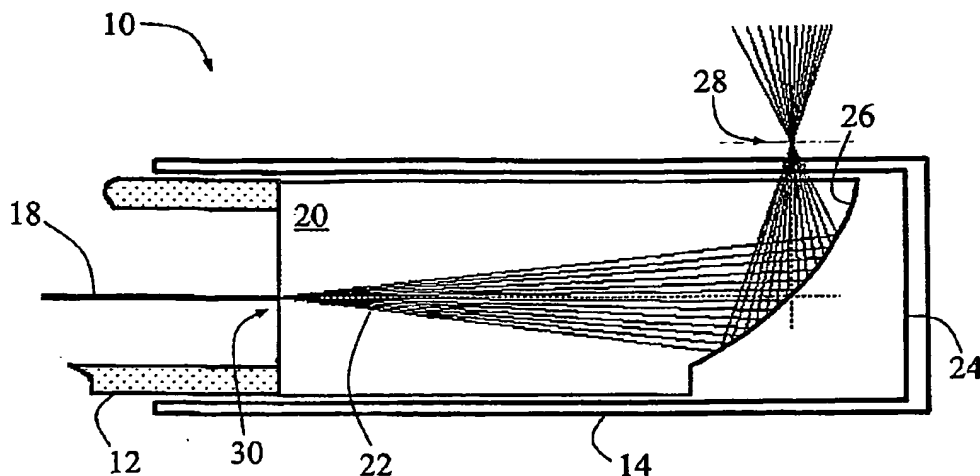
(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): HARRIS, Martin,  
Russell [AU/AU]; 163 Peel Street, Windsor, Victoria 3181  
(AU). ROSMAN, Gavin, Edmund [AU/AU]; 13 Davis  
Street, Camberwell, Victoria 3124 (AU). VANCE, Roder-  
ick, William, Charles [AU/AU]; 54 Main Street, Black-  
burn, Victoria 3130 (AU). ALLEN, John, David [AU/AU];  
24 Alfred Road, Essendon, Victoria 3040 (AU).

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(57) Abstract: A microscope, endoscope or optical coherence tomograph, comprising a light source, a flexible light transmitter (18) for receiving and transmitting light from the light source, an optical element (20) with a forward end (30) for receiving the light from the light transmitter (18) and a rear wall (26) having an internal surface for reflecting the light laterally, and an external sleeve (14) enclosing the optical element (20) and transparent to the light in at least a region of the sleeve where the light is directed by the internal surface (26). The internal surface (26) has an optical figure suitable for focussing the light to an observational field (28) external to the sleeve (14). A confocal configuration may be used.

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